

MECS Humanitarian
Stakeholder Consultation Workshop (MECS Programme Team and Partners)

9th December 2020



The goal of the workshop was to discuss the recently released "*Landscape Analysis of Modern Energy Cooking in Displacement Settings*" with the focus on the strategic priorities identified for the MECS humanitarian stream. The workshop also offered an opportunity to better understand who among the MECS partners and team members would be interested in partnering and collaborating under the 5 focus themes, as listed below.

The workshop was centred around questions on the key opportunities and barriers for MECS in displacement settings, themes or areas that seemed to be missing, as well as ways to create and strengthen synergies with the existing projects/programmes, and future plans among the participants. A summary of the feedback received during breakout group discussions is presented below.

	 Urban & peri-urban displacement	 Institutional & community-scale cooking	 Financing MECS (beyond grants)	 Quality data	 Inclusive models of provision
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include gender and the GILNOB stream Data from existing projects/pilots to understand whom they serve in urban contexts Communal/institutional cooking possibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with mini-grids for remote settings to pilot EPCs Electric utilities to install transformer - guarantee cooking load Variety of foods on the menu may be more limited & therefore predictable Explore LPG as a primary option Jobs creation for those living in the camps, e.g. maintenance Flexible/modular design of cooking solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philanthropic crowd funding to complement more traditional finance Mobile money transfers/ remittances Carbon and development impact finance emerging for metered cooking solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on local communities - fuel prices/availability Data on MECS use after project periods end Use of techniques developed in social sciences as well as quantitative measurements IoT solutions for data collection to complement self reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition of host communities an opportunity for inclusion of the displaced
Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little data on where urban displaced reside; often dispersed Households may not be able to secure electricity connections Unstable/illegal multi-household electricity connections No energy subsidy for those in informal settlements Urban displaced often undocumented, potential risk for them to be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining political/social contexts & various competing interests Long-term vs short-term cost-effectiveness of MECS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persuading companies of the viability of the markets in displacement settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of appropriate and easy to implement MEC monitors COVID-19 means messages need to be relayed through many actors Research fatigue from people living in refugee camps. Sensitisation important to get people on board and get quality data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity access in remote displacement settings Humanitarian actors' lack of focus on energy
What's missing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What difference will we make to the lives of peri/urban displaced in the short or medium-term future? Supply chains to get cooking devices to the locations Ensuring the displaced 'take MECS' with them when/if they return to their home countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand what humanitarian agencies think of different MECS solutions Humanitarian or institutional eCooking as an anchor client to encourage investment in off-grid or on-grid electric cooking/or to help convince utilities to support eCooking Ensure full use of available electricity, if spare loads-distribute to communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who are the organisations that will loan or take up upfront capex for energy for the displaced? Without causing tensions with host community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek out difficult areas to avoid biased samples and lessons learnt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move away from siloed thinking across cooking-electricity (tackle together) & humanitarian-developmental Ensure fair treatment so as to reduce accusation of favouritism Show 'a picture' of what is possible now and in the future Policy significance- ensure high-level Government buy-in for the inclusion of displacement in national policies
Boosting synergies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with other urban researchers at MECS Learn from other services or products that are supplied into these settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFP and other agencies to tackle food and energy access collectively Getting the community involved – through training & listening Mega Solar Kitchen as a potential solution (initial capex w/low ongoing OpEx) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on different (existing) business models that work to spread cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of core indicators that support connection of MECS with SDGs Design and develop the research programme with partners 	
Who wants to be involved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with potential suppliers (Nick Rousseau) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern Eating workstream (Gamos) Jon Leary (MECS): understand what people are cooking & how compatible this is with different types of appliances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Cooking Alliance (particularly finance and data) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD4MECS project starting Jan 2021 will explore co-creation with everyday cooks – opportunity to apply similar methodologies in humanitarian settings